

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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TRANSIENT NOTICE, FIFTY CENTS FOR SHORT LINES, EACH LINE. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

Deception.

Mr. D. F. Merritt, the apostle of Prohibition in Montclair, has prepared what he calls a non-partisan temperance ticket, which he wishes his friends to vote at the township election on Tuesday. This ticket has been sent to the voters of Montclair, and it appears that the names of several of the candidates have been used without their knowledge or consent.

Some of the gentlemen whose names have been so used, have promptly and indignantly repudiated the action of Mr. Merritt, and have exposed the deception which was thus attempted.

It is not considered dishonest to invite voters to help elect any citizen as the candidate of his own party for a local office, even though the individual may have authorized the use of his name for that office, but in assuming that other Republicans were willing to join him in his war on the Republican party in Montclair, Mr. Merritt has simply assumed that the other Republicans were as destitute of political principle as he has shown himself to be.

We are not in the least surprised at his action in this matter, for while Mr. Merritt is, perhaps, an honorable man in all his private affairs, his political conduct shows that he has small regard for good faith and upright dealing.

Tuesday's Election.

To the people of Bloomfield few things are of greater importance to-day than the election of upright and competent men to fill our local offices for the coming year.

No retiring Township Committee could ask for stronger approval than the present committee received from the taxpayers at the meeting on Monday evening. Every one of their recommendations was approved, and in the matter of sidewalks a larger sum was voted than the committee asked for.

Such action as this shows the spirit of the people and their confidence in those who have managed their affairs during the past year. If the primaries make any change in the ticket this spring we hope that equally good men will be chosen.

There is a strong feeling now in favor of a straight Republican ticket and it is for the good of the party that whatever ticket is nominated at the primary, receive the solid support of the party at the polls.

Let us come back to the old fashioned way of fighting all our battles at the primary, and then uniting to present a solid front to the enemy on election day.

Equity.

Wise laws contain provisions for the defence of minorities in the community. General in their nature, they provide only for direction in a large way, leaving detail for individual judgment. Equity requires not only that laws should be wisely made, but thoughtfully administered so as to meet the requirements of all. The rich should not oppress the poor, nor the poor demand more than their due. The powerful should not take advantage of the weak, nor the weak unduly harass those in authority.

These general principles will be found applicable to the present condition of our township.

A strong majority favors constant and rapid improvement. Taxes for gas, water, roads, fire-apparatus, and other necessities of thickly settled communities are voted to be paid by all. Few of these improvements are of direct use to the suburbs. Some can be supplied in increased measure to counterbalance the discrepancy. Justice demands that the suburbs should receive their fair share of the tax levied. More money should be spent upon roads than are paid in, that they may reap their fair proportion of returns from assessments levied upon them.

There is, however, another side to this picture. As it is true that the thickly-

settled centre pays the great bulk of taxes, they should have also their return in benefits, some of which cannot be enjoyed elsewhere.

Private improvements should be met by public expenditures. Where new houses are built, water, gas, roads, crosswalks, sidewalks and other public works should quickly follow. This is not only equitable; it is good policy. Such action upon the part of the town authorities will encourage capital, develop idle property, spread favorable reports of our generosity; and by increasing our assessable property, reduce the rate of taxation.

In public and private improvements the whole township is interested, and can well afford to welcome and sustain them. Efforts to defeat our growth by mischievous proceedings in law are suicidal and vain. Majorities will not yield their will, because of opposition; but may be conciliated by efforts at compromise. A new era of increased building is upon us. Already many new houses have been started. Others are projected. The times demand enterprise and push. To hold back is folly where success is already well-assured.

Patrick H. Lavery, the head keeper of the State Prison, has been impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and will be brought to the Bar of the Senate for trial. Lavery's pure and disinterested devotion to Governor Abbott entitles the Governor to our sympathy. Fortunately Governor Abbott will have no chance to interpose executive clemency in this case, and all that the disgraced keeper can hope for is the one thing which every accused person is entitled to, a fair trial. We listen with bent head and bated breath to hear some Democratic editor say "Turn the rascals out."

The city of Newark would like to deprive the townships of one-half of their representation in the County Board of Freeholders. If Newark wishes exclusive control of county finances we would suggest that they introduce the celebrated "New County Bill" into the Senate, and if they can get South Jersey to help them in this way, the townships will bid them an affectionate farewell.

History of Prohibition in Maine.

[BY A CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

In the intervals of leisure from business during a short visit in Portland, and in other parts of the State, I have taken particular pains to obtain accurate information both by personal observation and by conversation with thoroughly trustworthy men—in every case friends of temperance reform. "To understand the situation properly," said a resident of Portland, "you must understand that Maine has been a temperance State for half a century. The Washingtonian movement spread through the State soon after its inception, and in every town of any size total abstinence societies were formed. In the days when liquor selling was authorized by law, licenses were granted with great discretion, and any person who sold without a license was heavily punished. Finally, late in the forties, the Legislature forbade the granting of licenses, and the old statutes against selling without license remained in force. Everywhere, except in the large cities, traffic in liquor became dangerous; the laws were enforced by justices of the peace—in most cases the leading citizens of their several towns—and they were sustained by all the best classes of the people. Probably by the year 1850 liquor was practically driven out of more than half the townships in Maine, or sold in obscure corners of country taverns, where only travellers or residents of the neighborhood who had no reputation to lose would venture.

"In 1851 Neal Dow, a member of the Legislature, introduced 'the Maine Law,' which was passed. This forbade the sale of liquor or the keeping of it for sale as a beverage, under heavy penalties; gave to the proper officers extraordinary powers of search, and defined with more or less vagueness the testimony which should be necessary in order to convict the possessor of liquor of an intention to sell it. But in order to give the people a chance to obtain spirits for medicinal or mechanical purposes, a State agent and local agents in every town were created, to whom was given a monopoly of the whole liquor business. Thus rum and whiskey were forced by law into many towns where they had been unknown for years; and the misuse of his position by the agent—tempted by the large profits of his trade—was much less dangerous than the unlawful traffic in liquor by others. In the year following Neal Dow was elected Mayor of Portland, and exerted all his powers and stretched his legal authority to the utmost to enforce his law. Trucks of arriving travellers were opened and examined at the stations; boxes and bales of dry goods and groceries, addressed to the most respected merchants, were hauled to their stores on the city trucks and opened by city officers; long augurs were bored through barrels of flour—not without occasionally striking a brandy keg in the centre, and flasks, it is said, were sometimes taken from the breast-pockets of men passing through the city in the cars. So great opposition to the law was created by the methods of its en-

forcement that, in 1852, there was an Anti-Maine Law party which polled 21,804 votes—within 8,000 as many as the Whigs. The Democratic party, which in that year had 42,132 votes, broke to pieces on the temperance question almost as much as on the anti-slavery issue, and in 1854 the Republican party had a majority in the State. From that time until the outbreak of the war the local name for that party was 'the Temperance party,' and all opposed to it were known as 'rummies,' without the slightest reference to their personal habits. With only slight intervals the 'Maine Law' has remained on the statute book, but has been modified from time to time. It must be admitted, however, that liquor is still sold to all who wish to obtain it in nearly every town in the State.

A TOUR OF OBSERVATION. A spasmodic effort was made in this city a few weeks ago by a few earnest citizens, resulting in a few seizures of liquor and a little less publicity for a time in its sale; but even now any person can find a dram-shop or a barroom without asking the aid of a friend. A recent tour of observation through Portland showed that here at least hardly the pretence of secrecy is kept up. In Fore street and the lower part of Middle street one can see through the open doors regularly arranged bars with decanters and glasses as temptingly displayed as in a New York liquor shop, with men standing in front drinking something. The front window of one of these places is filled with bottles labelled with all the ordinary kinds of intoxicants known to the trade. It is probable, indeed, that if the police should seize the bottles in the window they would be found to contain only water, but as a sign of what is to be obtained inside the shop they are unmistakable.

But these places are of a low order and can only serve as an explanation of the intoxicated sailors and boatmen to be seen on the wharves. Where do the respectable men obtain their drink? Is the natural question. Standing in the doorway of one of the large hotels, two young men were observed hastening along a passageway and down a flight of stairs. Upon following them, they were seen to enter a large apartment in the basement, elegantly fitted up as a bar-room. It was newly filled with well-dressed men, drinking, clinking glasses and noisily conversing; although it was only ten o'clock in the forenoon—an hour when, in a community where drinking is done openly, no gentleman would think of standing before a bar. Passing on to another large hotel, and idly following a group of young men, a similar scene was witnessed. No introduction was required; the places were easy enough of access, and there was no apparent reason why an officer could not have obtained access to either room as easily as a casual visitor. And yet, only a few years ago, the private parlor of a gentleman living with his wife at one of these hotels was entered by an officer and a decanter of sherry was taken from his sideboard and confiscated.

The number of apothecary shops, each with an elaborate soda water fountain, to be found in Portland and the other cities is somewhat noticeable; also the large amount of soda, compared with the drugs, that is sold. And the demand does not diminish as the weather grows colder, as in some places, but seems to increase. Indeed, when the thermometer is below zero, it is common enough to see groups of rosy-cheeked men standing in front of these fountains and indulging in soda to a degree that makes the uninitiated shiver. There is no pretence of doubt that most of the drug stores are thinly disguised bar-rooms and do a thriving business.

OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE SITUATION.

In a town in Oxford County, where there is no large village, a farmer who had passed his life there said: "Any one can get liquor in this town who wishes. It is disgraceful." "Do you know where it is sold?" was asked. "Yes," was the reply. "Then why don't you assist in stopping it? The law is plain enough, if you will help enforce it." "It's not my business. I'm not going to put the spy on my neighbors." He was asked why there was this change of feeling, since thirty-five years ago, when every respectable man felt it his duty to aid in preventing the sale of liquor. He said that then it was the business of the people; now it was the business of special officers. Besides, he said, it might be that the severity of the penalty had something to do with it. It was hard to make people fully believe that a man who sold liquor should be placed quite on a par with a highway robber, and suffer the same penalty. Inquiry was made in many other towns with the same result. Another source of intemperance, which no law can reach, is the hard cider which is almost as cheap as water all over the State. Maine is filled with orchards, and along every roadside and fence and wall are many apple trees. All the fruit not fit for market may be converted into cider at a neighboring mill at a trifling cost of labor, and there are few farmers who may not put into his cellar from ten to one hundred barrels of apple juice each alternate year. The consumption of hard cider among the farmers and village people is said to be

enormous; though the sale of it at retail is prohibited. A young farmer in New Gloucester said: "I shall make no more cider. I feed my small apples to the pigs and buy my vinegar. I will not give a pitcher of cider to every man who calls on me on business, and the only way I can get out of it is not to have any to give."

Internal Revenue licenses for retail liquor dealing were issued in the State last year to the number of 1,046; of these 258 went to Cumberland County, in which is Portland; 189 to Penobscot County, in which is Bangor; 90 to Kennebec County, in which is Augusta; and 92 to Androscoggin County, in which is Lewiston. These figures tell their own story. There were 818 prosecutions for drunkenness, and this in a State having a population of only—in round numbers—650,000, or less than one-half of that of New York City, and scattered over an area of 35,000 square miles.

There are those who still insist upon it that prohibition has been beneficial to Maine, and that, as a rule, it does prohibit. What Maine might have been to-day without prohibition is matter for conjecture only; that it is, to say the least, no more of a temperance State now than in 1851 is the opinion of many earnest friends of total abstinence. The large vote given last fall to the Prohibition Amendment indicates nothing, so far as can be ascertained, so much as a common desire of all men of all parties to take the question out of politics.

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Why, those magnificent two-pound caddies, which we sold for \$1, and with which we gave a beautiful Tea Set. It was a grand treat to the people, no doubt, and they were not slow in showing their appreciation of it. We have but very few left, consequently those of our customers who have not yet been supplied must attend to the matter at once, or they will be out in the cold.

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1886. Calendar. 1886.

On Saturday, January 2, we shall commence the distribution of our most beautifully ornamented Calendar for 1886. The design is exceedingly tasteful, its general delicacy and beauty being excelled only by its utility. No well-regulated family can afford to be without a copy.

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